Dean's Round-up: December 2021

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

We published and shared our top 10 moments from 2021 as part of York University's #BestofYU social media campaign. Our social media posts garnered more than 650 engagements overall and led to more than 200 visits to our webpage.

We hosted our Virtual Holiday Party on December 15. Nearly 80 staff and faculty members joined the festivities. Thank you to everyone involved in planning the event and all who participated.

Pedagogy and Curriculum Help is Available! Do you have questions about dynamic pedagogy, curriculum ideas, adding flexibility to labs, or adding flexibility to courses? Ashley Nahornick (Educational Development Specialist) is here to answer your questions. She can also review your e-class, provide ideas, and answer your questions. Reach out at ashleynk@yorku.ca

CONGRATULATIONS

Cora Young (Chemistry) received the Environment Division Early Career Research Award from the Chemical Institute of Canada.

The Antihydrogen Laser Physics Apparatus collaboration, which includes Scott Menary (Physics & Astronomy), was a top 10 finalist in Physics World's 2021 Breakthrough of the Year for their demonstration of laser-cooling antihydrogen atoms.

Jianhong Wu (Mathematics & Statistics), along with co-applicant Afshin
Rezaei-Zare (Lassonde) received a grant from York University’s new Catalyzing Interdisciplinary Research Clusters initiative for their project “Disaster and Health Emergency Urban Systemic Risk Transformation Cluster.”

Postdoc Don Davies (Biology) received a grant from York University’s Indigeneity in Teaching & Learning Fund for his project “Dementia Care in the Indigenous Population.”

MORE NEWS

The Allan I Carswell Observatory Teletube hosted guest speaker Dr. Hilding Neilson, who presented an indigenous perspective on modern astronomy with his talk “Light Pollution, Satellite Pollution, Space Exploration and our changing relationship with the night sky.”

Andrew McEachern (Mathematics & Statistics) was an invited panelist at the Innovations in Education Conference hosted at McMaster University.

Paul Delaney (Physics & Astronomy) presented “From the Big Bang to Life” at Matrix Academy and “The Solar System” at Gulf Stream PS.

Diethard K. Böhme (Chemistry) authored Charge state chemistry: What a difference a charge makes in gas-phase chemistry! in the International Journal of Mass Spectrometry. The article was an invited publication as part of a special issue in memory of Paul Kebarle, a Canadian pioneer in ion chemistry from the University of Alberta.

A new Memorandum of Understanding between York University and UNIST (Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology, South Korea) was marked with a virtual signing ceremony on December 6. Read more about UNIST in our International Partner Institution Profile section below.

Stephen Watson (Mathematics & Statistics) and Hugo Chen (Director of International Collaborations and Partnerships) attended a curriculum design working group meeting with delegates from Guilin University of Electronic Technology, to explore a transnational education opportunity in the Data Science program.

Robert Tsushima (Biology) and Hugo Chen (Director of International Collaborations and Partnerships) attended a curriculum design working group meeting with delegates from Nantong University, to establish an articulation agreement in the Biomedical Science program.
RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS


Former PhD student **Nadejda Tsvetkov** and **Amro Zayed** (Biology) published *Searching beyond the streetlight: Neonicotinoid exposure alters the neurogenomic state of worker honey bees* in *Ecology and Evolution*.

Jacob A. Westerberg, Elizabeth A. Sigworth, **Jeffrey D. Schall** (Biology), and Alexander Maier published *Pop-out search instigates beta-gated feature selectivity enhancement across V4 layers* in *PNAS*.


MEDIA

Research by **Amro Zayed** (Biology) and his team about the origin of the western honey bee received extensive media coverage, including by *NewScientist, Smithsonian Magazine, Cosmos Magazine, Nature Middle East*, and other publications.

**Elaina Hyde** (Physics & Astronomy) spoke to CBC Radio’s *Metro Morning*
Paul Delaney (Physics & Astronomy) spoke to 960AM, AM1010, CTV News, AM640, AM900, CJBQ Belleville and Sirius XM on numerous astronomy topics including the Geminids meteor shower, ISS, space debris, James Webb Space Telescope launch, Comet Leonard, Elon Musk, Blue Origin launch, and more. He also spoke to CTV News about his wish list of observations during retirement.

Adam Muzzin (Physics & Astronomy) conducted on-air interviews about the James Webb Space Telescope with CTV News and CBC. He was also interviewed by CBC News on this topic. See the media advisory from York University.

Sapna Sharma (Biology) and her colleagues published Our lakes are losing their ice cover faster than ever, here’s what that means for us in The Conversation. The article was re-printed in the National Post.

Jesse Rogerson (NATS) was interviewed for a Global News video profile of the private space race and how it’s allowing NASA to explore new frontiers. He was quoted in an article in Engineering about NASA’s Ingenuity helicopter on Mars. As well, he was interviewed about the James Webb Space Telescope by CBC Radio, CTV News, and Global News, about the Blue Origin launch and the top space stories of 2021 by CP24, the Geminids meteor shower by CTV News and CityNews 680, and about mega-constellations and sky/light pollution by CBC Radio.

Dasantila Golemi-Kotra (Biology) authored Omicron FAQ: How is it different from other variants? Is it a ‘super-variant?’ Can it evade vaccines? How transmissible is it? In The Conversation; the article was re-printed in the National Post. She also spoke to numerous media outlets about Omicron, including CBC Radio, CityNews 570, ELMNT FM, and Global News 590 CHML. As well, she was interviewed by CTV News about proper mask wearing.

Dasantila Golemi-Kotra (Biology) and Jianhong Wu (Mathematics & Statistics) authored Children ages 5 to 11 are getting COVID-19 vaccinations: What this might mean for the holidays and the Omicron variant in The Conversation; the article was re-printed in the National Post and Yahoo! News.

EVENTS

Jan 26: Using Discord without Creating Discord: A Beginner’s Guide to Discord
Feb 3: *Informal Graduate Student/Post-Doc chat on teaching and learning.* 2-3pm on Zoom.

Feb 4: *Making the case that leading with kindness and compassion makes us both better teachers and researchers,* presented by Dr. Dawn Bazely. 12-1 pm on Zoom.

Feb 17: *Designing Student Centered Classrooms,* presented by Dr. Shoshanna Jacobs (University of Guelph). 1-2pm on Zoom.

Feb 22: *Informal chat with faculty/instructors on teaching and learning.* 12-1pm on Zoom.

Mar 4: *Talk Matters: Investigating the Nature of Non-Content Classroom Language – Instructor Talk – that May Mediate Student Inclusion, Engagement, and Learning,* presented by Dr. Kimberly Tanner (San Francisco State University). 12-1:15pm on Zoom.

Mar 24: *Aligning Mentoring Expectations in Science research,* presented by Dr. Erin Dolan (University of Georgia). 12pm-1pm on Zoom.

**INTERNATIONAL PARTNER INSTITUTION PROFILE**

The Faculty of Science has established multiple partnerships with various international institutions. In order to better inform the York Science community of these international partner institutions, we will provide a brief profile of each of them in our Dean’s Round-up.
UNIST is located in the heart of South Korea’s largest industrial city, Ulsan. Since its opening in 2009, UNIST has been ranked 8th in S. Korea and 212th globally in the latest QS World University Rankings by Subject. UNIST is the only university in South Korea where 100% of lectures are conducted in English. UNIST has been designated as one of the world’s foremost graphene R&D institutions, hosting three IBS campus-based research centers. Moreover, in the field of secondary batteries, UNIST has been ranked in among the top three in the world along with MIT and Stanford University.

UNIST has 463 faculty members and 4,622 students including 2,000 graduates. Colleges and Schools that students can choose subjects from are the College of Engineering, College of Information and Biotechnology, College of Natural Sciences, School of Business Administration, School of Liberal Arts and School of New UNISTars.